

Energy Notes is published by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Energy Center to provide information to state employees on what can and is being done to reduce energy cost in the work place and in the home.

Building Operator Certification Offers Energy Efficiency Training For Facility Maintenance Staff

Building Operator Certification (BOC) is a professional development program for operation and maintenance staff working in public and commercial buildings. The goal of the program is to achieve energy savings and improve building comfort and safety by training individuals directly responsible for day-to-day facility operations. The program aims to establish a standard of professional competence in energy and resource efficient building operations and maintenance.

BOC training consists of a series of seven courses—eight full days of training—on building systems, energy conservation techniques, HVAC systems and controls, lighting, environmental health and safety regulations, indoor air quality, and facility electrical systems. The training includes classroom study, small group exercises, open-book exams and project assignments based on the participants' own facilities. Participants receive 56 hours of classroom training and complete five in-facility projects, each requiring approximately two hours of work outside the classroom. The projects are designed to demonstrate participants' competence in locating building heating and cooling equipment, distribution paths and control points; facility energy accounting; HVAC energy inspection reporting; and facility lighting surveys. Except for the course on HVAC systems, each course in the BOC training series is completed in a one-day training session. *HVAC Systems and Controls* is a two-day course. Typically, courses are scheduled one per month over a seven-month period.

The Energy Center of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), with the generous support of Ameren UE is providing BOC training in Missouri. Classes will begin October 19, in Jefferson City at the DNR Elm Street Conference Center and October 26, in St. Louis at the Ameren UE Headquarters. There are just a few weeks left to signup for the first training series. Those interested should send in their registration as soon as possible.

BOC is a nationally recognized program that is offered in the Northeast, Northwest and the Midwest. MEEA, a network of government agencies, energy utilities, energy service firms, and other businesses and individuals dedicated to promoting energy efficiency—is administering BOC in the Midwest. MEEA is also working with the Ohio Department of Development, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce to implement the BOC program in Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio.

Missouri state agencies are encouraged to identify key building maintenance personnel who would benefit from this training. For more information about the BOC program, registration and cost, please contact; David L. Harrison of the Missouri Energy Center by phone (573) 751-7057, fax (573) 751-6860, or e-mail david.harrison@dnr.mo.gov, or visit the Energy Center's BOC Web site at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/boc-training.htm>

Saving Green On Gasoline

The retail prices of gasoline and diesel have set new records in response to higher crude prices, refinery problems and continued strength in consumer demand. These already high prices were inflated even more by the closing of drilling platforms, refineries and major pipelines in the Gulf Region due to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This has lead many drivers to seek options to decrease their gasoline usage and lessen the shock of gas price increases.

To help state employees identify these cost-saving opportunities, the Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center offers "Saving Green on Gasoline," a publication aimed at encouraging drivers to consider a number of steps that can decrease transportation fuel use. These steps range from keeping the family car in tune to decreasing single-driver commuting in favor of carpooling, using public transportation or riding a bicycle. Each option can save commuters significant money on getting back and forth to work.

Where it is available, public transportation may be the least expensive way to commute. One person switching from driving alone to riding the bus to work can reduce transportation costs up to \$1,500 annually. Sharing a ride to the office with co-workers saves money, reduces stress, and helps cut down on traffic congestion and pollution. Regularly carpooling to work with a coworker can effectively cut commuting costs in half. The results can be savings of up to \$1,500 a year in gasoline costs alone. Adding more riders cuts the costs even more. Local Rideshare programs can connect workers with prospective carpool partners. For more information about the rideshare program, please contact the Mid-Missouri Rideshare Program at (573) 751-3155 or visit our rideshare web site at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/transportation/ride.htm>

Even those who continue to drive themselves every day can save green on gasoline. A careful driver may get 20 percent more miles per gallon than the average driver. Proper car maintenance, including tune-ups and proper tire inflation, can also save car owners up to 10 percent. For more information practicing fuel efficient driving techniques, please link to <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/pub1330.pdf> to obtain your own copy of "Saving Green on Gasoline" publication.

Of course saving gas begins with buying a fuel-efficient vehicle. Many manufacturers are now offering an increasing number of gas/electric hybrid models or models that run on ethanol, biodiesel or other alternative fuels.

For more information on public transportation, carpooling, fuel-efficient vehicles and other ways to Save Green on Gasoline, visit the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center Web page at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/gasprices.htm> Or call the department toll-free at 1-800-361-4827.

Energy Facts

The typical Missouri vehicle uses approximately 600 gallons of fuel and is driven more than 16,000 miles per year. With more than 4.2 million registered vehicles in Missouri, that adds up to 67.2 billion miles driven, 2.52 billion gallons of gasoline consumed and over \$6 billion spent at the gas pump.

Resources

DNR Publications: Saving Green on Gasoline Publication: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/pub1330.pdf>

Web sites: <http://www.boccentral.org/>

Saving Green on Gasoline: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/gasprices.htm>

For More Information, Contact

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Energy Center
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-3443

E-mail: energy@dnr.mo.gov

Web site: www.dnr.mo.gov/energy